Department of Defense
Legacy Resource Management Program

Project 00-107

Commander's Guide To Archaeological Curation - Presentation

US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District
Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections

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Background and Need for Curation

- Federal law, regulations, and service-wide guidance dictate that installations are required to curate (provide professional, long-term care for) all archaeological collections recovered from DoD-owned and managed lands.

- Archaeological materials and all associated records must be maintained together as a unit.

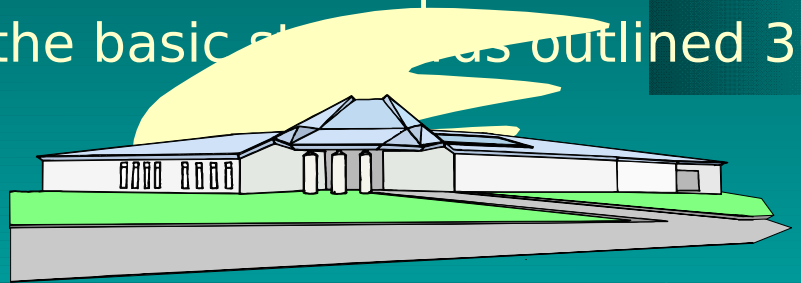
- Collections currently do not meet mandatory standards. The status of DoD collections is generally

Guiding Principles for Curation

- Curation should begin before archaeological materials are collected or a document is created.
  - A curation plan should be developed and implemented.
- Consider that all curation actions may have a permanent, rather than temporary, effect.
  - Inappropriate curation methods have decreased "survivability" of many collections.

Guiding Principles for Curation
(Continued)

- Document each action.
  - Maintain chain of custody and administrative control over collections.
- Follow guidelines in 36 CFR Part 79, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections.
  - Curate collections in a professional repository that meets the basic standards outlined 36 CFR Part 79.



Legal Requirements for Curation

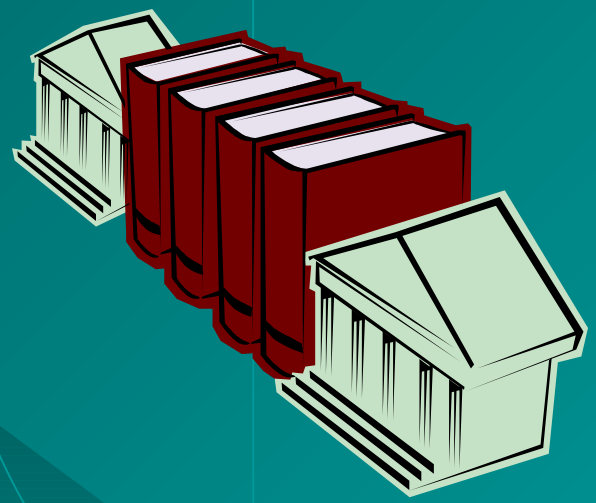
- National Historic Preservation Act of 19
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- 36 CFR Part 79, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections (1991)

DoD and Service-Wide Guidance

- DoD Instruction 4715.3 (Environmental Conservation) 11-11-96
- AIR FORCE:
  - Air Force Instruction 32-7065 (6-13-94)
  - HQ Air Mobility Command, Curation Guidelines for Archeological Collections (Draft)
- ARMY:
  - Army Regulation 200-4 (1-8-98)
  - Department of the Army PAM 200-4 (1-8-98)

DoD and Service-Wide Guidance
(Continued)

- ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:
  - ER 1130-2-540 (11-15-96)
  - EP 1130-2-540 (11-15-96)
- NAVY:
  - SECNAVINST 4000.35 (8-17-92)
  - OPNAVINST 5090.1B (2-2-98)
- MARINES:
  - Marine Corps Order P5090.2A (7-10-98)



Who Is Responsible?

- Active Installations
  - Installation Commander ultimately responsible
  - Environmental Office staff typically handle duties
- Installations in BRAC process (minimal military presence)
  - Staff with NEPA compliance duties
  - Responsibility shifts to MACOM level
- Closed Installations (no military presence)
  - MACOM inherits responsibility
  - May delegate duties to sister installation

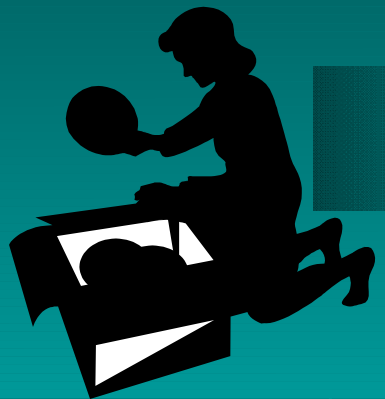
How to do this?

- 1st Step - Gather all background data, including:
  - Information on all previous archaeological investigations on base;
  - All site information;
  - All material collections that were recovered;
  - Location and condition of the collections;
  - Location and condition of the records

- 2nd Step – Curate collections according to 36 CFR Part 79

Major Components of 36 CFR Part 79

- Ensure that the repository maintains professional museum practices, including:
  - Written policies and procedures for records and objects management
  - Periodic review and revision of policies to stay current
- Employ museum professionals knowledgeable in the methods of
  - Conservation
  - Accessioning
  - Cataloging
  - Labeling



36 CFR Part 79
(Continued)

- Repositories should have adequate space for:
  - Collection storage areas
  - Offices
  - Research areas
  - Registration activities
- Repositories should meet all building codes, including:
  - Structural adequacy
  - Fire detection and suppression systems
  - Security

36 CFR Part 79
(Continued)

- Environmental Controls should be installed and maintained.
- An Emergency Management Plan should be developed and implemented.
- An Integrated Pest Management program should be implemented and monitored

Curation Wrap-Up

- Archaeological collections are the only physical record for our national heritage for the prehistoric and early historic eras. They are irreplaceable.
- DoD is required to maintain their collections by law.
- Assistance with this effort is available from the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections.
- For more information, please contact Michael K. Trimble, Ph.D., at (314) 331-8466 or by email at michael.k.trimble@mvs02.usace.army.mil